

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

SPECIAL ALERT

Official newsletter of Khoury Johnson Leavitt



Khoury
Johnson
Leavitt

KJL SPECIAL ALERT

The Khoury Johnson and Leavitt team remain informed and engaged during these times of uncertainty. We are in communication with leadership in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of state government, in addition to locals on a regular basis. Updates will continue every Friday as a mechanism to recap relevant activity from the past week.

Michigan lawmakers reach agreement on budget parameters for fiscal year 2021

Michigan lawmakers have reached an agreement on the budget parameters for fiscal year 2021.

The announcement was made Monday by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Stamas, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Shane Hernandez and State Budget Dir. Chris Kolb.

The agreement prioritizes education by making sure there is no reduction in funding to K through 12 public schools. There are also no cuts to revenue sharing for local governments.

The House and Senate subcommittee chairs are now working with state departments and the State Budget Office on the details of each budget. According to a release, the final legislative action is set to occur on all budget bills by next week.

State issues emergency work order to Boyce Hydro for Edenville Dam

The state is moving forward with needed repairs after the devastating failure of the Edenville Dam.

Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has issued an emergency work order to Edenville Dam owner Boyce Hydro. The order is to partially breach the Edenville Dam's Tobacco River spillway. This is intended to improve the stability of the Tobacco River portion of the Edenville Dam.

While the order requires Boyce Hydro to do the work, the state has already said it doesn't anticipate the serially delinquent company to make the repairs.

1,000 open-carry gun activists converge on Michigan Capitol lawn

Approximately 1,000 demonstrators from across Michigan gathered on the State Capitol lawn Thursday in Lansing to support open-carry gun rights and protest a recent push to ban guns from the Capitol building.

While occasionally addressing other issues such as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-home measures, speakers at the Sep. 17 rally focused on the rights of protesters, many of whom carrying pistols and rifles out in the open.

While the protest was planned weeks prior, the gun rights rally comes days after the Michigan State Capitol Commission voted down two proposals to impose weapons bans in the state Capitol building. The six-member state panel voted down a proposal to completely ban firearms in the Capitol 2-4, and split 3-3 on a motion to ban open carry in the building. The panel is deliberating with Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield.

COVID-19 Update

Ten counties, including six in the Upper Peninsula, are among the Michigan counties now coded orange or red, indicating heightened concern about coronavirus spread, based on a metric developed by the Harvard Global Health Initiative to assess coronavirus risk levels.

Ingham County, which has had an explosion of cases involving Michigan State University students, is the only county still coded red.

The eight orange counties are Ottawa, Mecosta and Cass in the Lower Peninsula, and Houghton, Delta, Menominee, Iron, Ontonagon and Keweenaw in the U.P.

The Harvard Institute metric uses a seven-day average of new cases per 100,000 residents. The newest assessment is based on data for Sept. 10-16.

Like Ingham, Ottawa, Mecosta and Houghton are in the midst of ongoing outbreaks related to college students. Ottawa is the home of Grand Valley State University; Mecosta is home to Ferris State, and Houghton is the location of Michigan Tech.

Ingham reported another 111 cases Thursday and Ottawa had 45 new cases.

On the other end of the spectrum, nine counties are in the green zone as of Friday morning, based on the Harvard Institute metric. Those counties have minimal transmission of coronavirus right now.

Three counties -- Alger, Chippewa and Montmorency -- have reported no new cases in the past week.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS:

- [EO 2020-178](#)
 - Temporary safety measures for food-selling establishments and pharmacies and temporary relief from requirements applicable to the renewal of licenses for the food-service industry - Rescission of Executive Order 2020-168
- [EO 2020-179](#)
 - Enhanced protections for residents and staff of long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic - Rescission of Executive Order 2020-169
- [EO 2020-180](#)
 - Amendment to the Safe Start order
- [EO 2020-181](#)
 - Amendment to the Safe Start order



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com

www.michigan.gov/ag

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com

www.congress.gov.com

www.michiganbusiness.org

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